

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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P R 301929Z MAY 78
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USINFO FOR: PGM/RC, PGM/PPL, VOA/PL, AR

SECSTATE FOR ARA

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: CARACAS MEDIA REACTION 29 MAY 78

1. THREE CARACAS DAILIES PUBLISHED COMMENTARIES ON THE SSOD DURING THE WEEKEND AND ON TUESDAY. THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE "DAILY JOURNAL" WELCOMED FOREIGN MINISTER CONSALVI'S PROPOSAL TO LIMIT THE ARMS RACE IN LATIN AMERICA, BUT QUESTIONED WHETHER THERE WAS "ANY CHANCE OF HAVING IT CONSIDERED." THE DJ LISTED THE BORDER DISPUTES AND RIVALRIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THEN SAID: "MILITARY GOVERNMENTS ARE THE BIGGEST PURCHASERS OF ARMS. ALSO, THEY ARE THE ONES MOST LIKELY TO BREAK THE PEACE OR USE ARMS AGAINST THEIR OWN PEOPLE. THE MOST HOPEFUL ROAD TO ARMS CONTROL IS THROUGH A TOTAL DEMOCRATIZATION OF THE CONTINENT."

2. THE REGULAR "INTERNATIONAL WEEK" COLUMN IN SUNDAY'S "EL NACIO-NAL" NOTED THE OPENING OF THE SSOD, SAYING IT HAD "LONG BEEN SUPPORTED BY THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES IN THEIR EFFORTS TO GET THE GREAT POWERS TO REDUCE THEIR INVESTMENTS IN NUCLEAR ARSENALS AND CONVENTIONAL ARMS." "EL NACIONAL" WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE CONFERENCE, SAYING THAT "...NO AGREEMENTS OVER ANY SUBSTANTIAL

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QUESTION WILL BE REACHED, EVEN IF A PROGRAM OF ACTION FOR FUTURE MULTILATERAL DISARMAMENT NEGOCIATIONS WILL."

3. NEITHER DID "EL UNIVERSAL'S" RESPECTED FOREIGN AFFAIRS COLUMNIST LUIS ESTEBAN REY EXPECT MUCH TO COME OF THE CONFERENCE, BUT SAID "IT IS NECESSARY TO AGITATE THE CONSCIENCE OF HUMANITY SENSITIZE IT TO WHAT IS HAPPENING..." REY SAID

THE ARMS RACE WAS "FED BY THE RIVALRY" OF THE U.S. AND THE
U.S.S.R. IN A REFERENCE TO GROMYKO'S TERMING THE NEUTRON
BOMB" A CUREL WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION," REY SAID ONE WOULD
"HAVE TO ASK SENOR GROMYKO IF THE SS-20'S ARE CARAMELS AND
CHOCOLATES FOR THE CHILDREN OF WESTERN EUROPE."
KEY

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